MARVEL® 25TH ANNIVERSARY

# THE NEW MUTANTS®

© 1985 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

75¢ U.K. 40p CAN. 95¢ 38 APR

PROFESSOR [illegible]'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED [illegible]NGSTERS

WARLOCK

MIRAGE

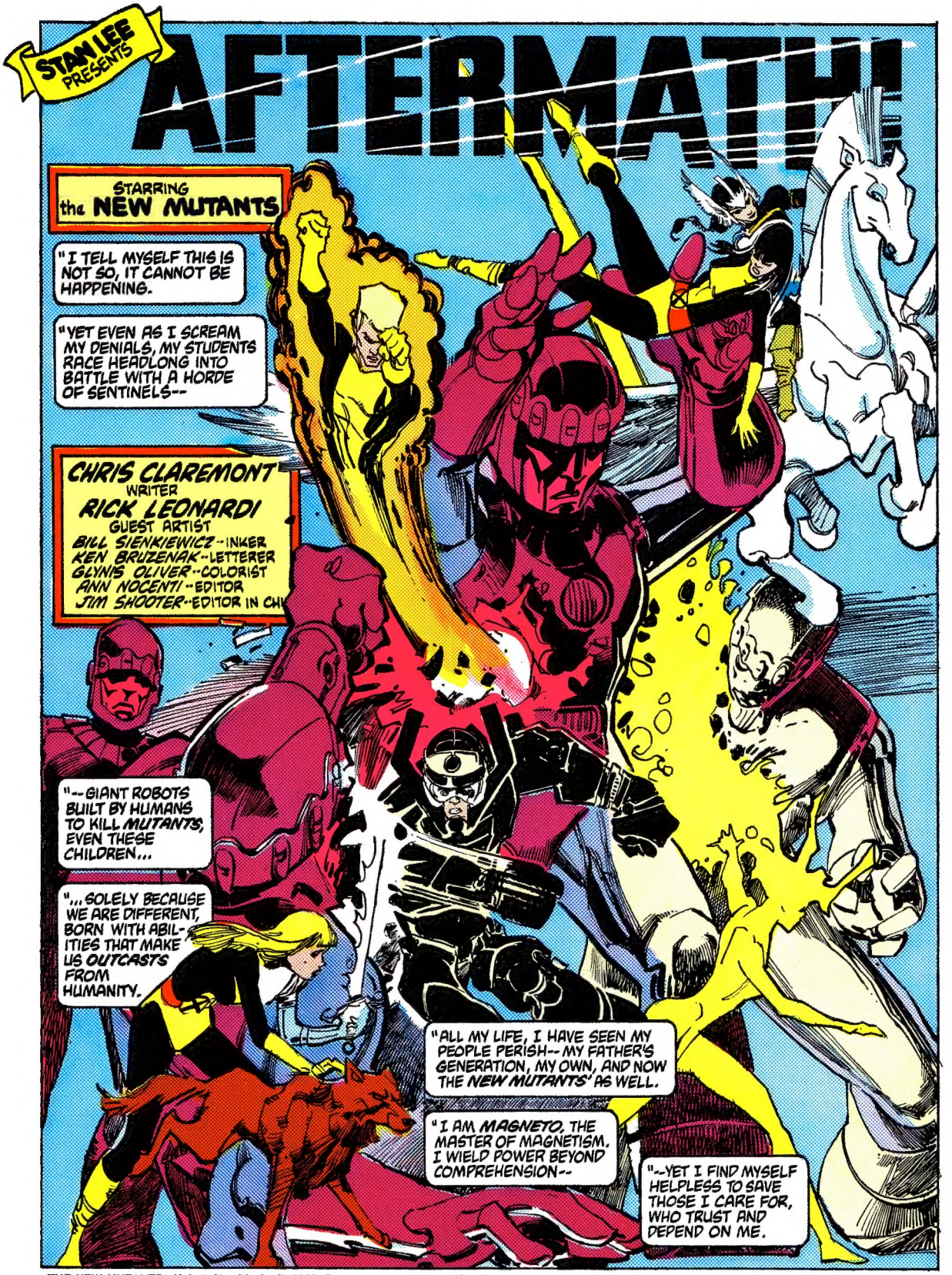
MAGIK

CYPHER

KARMA

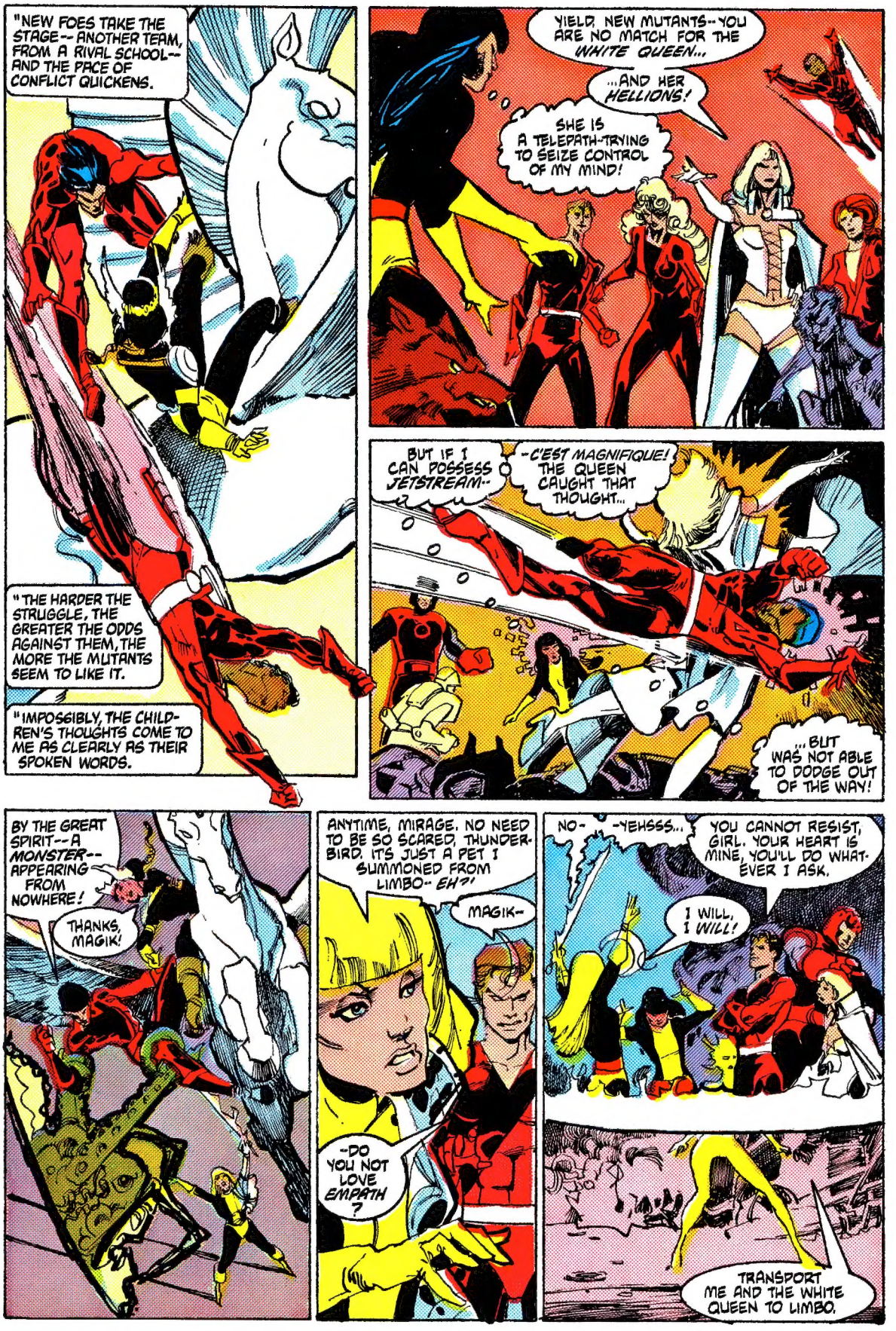
CANNONBALL

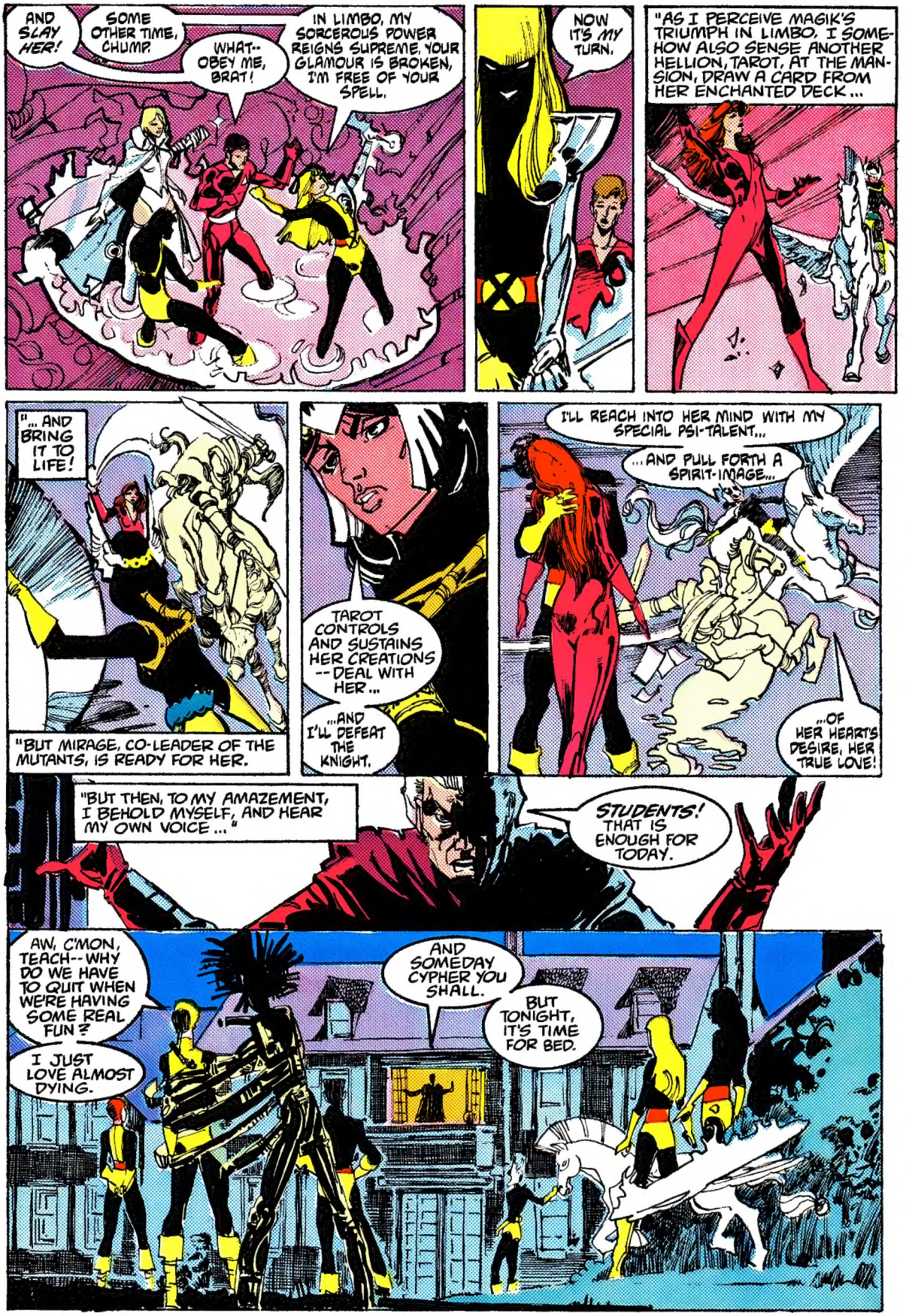
MAGMA

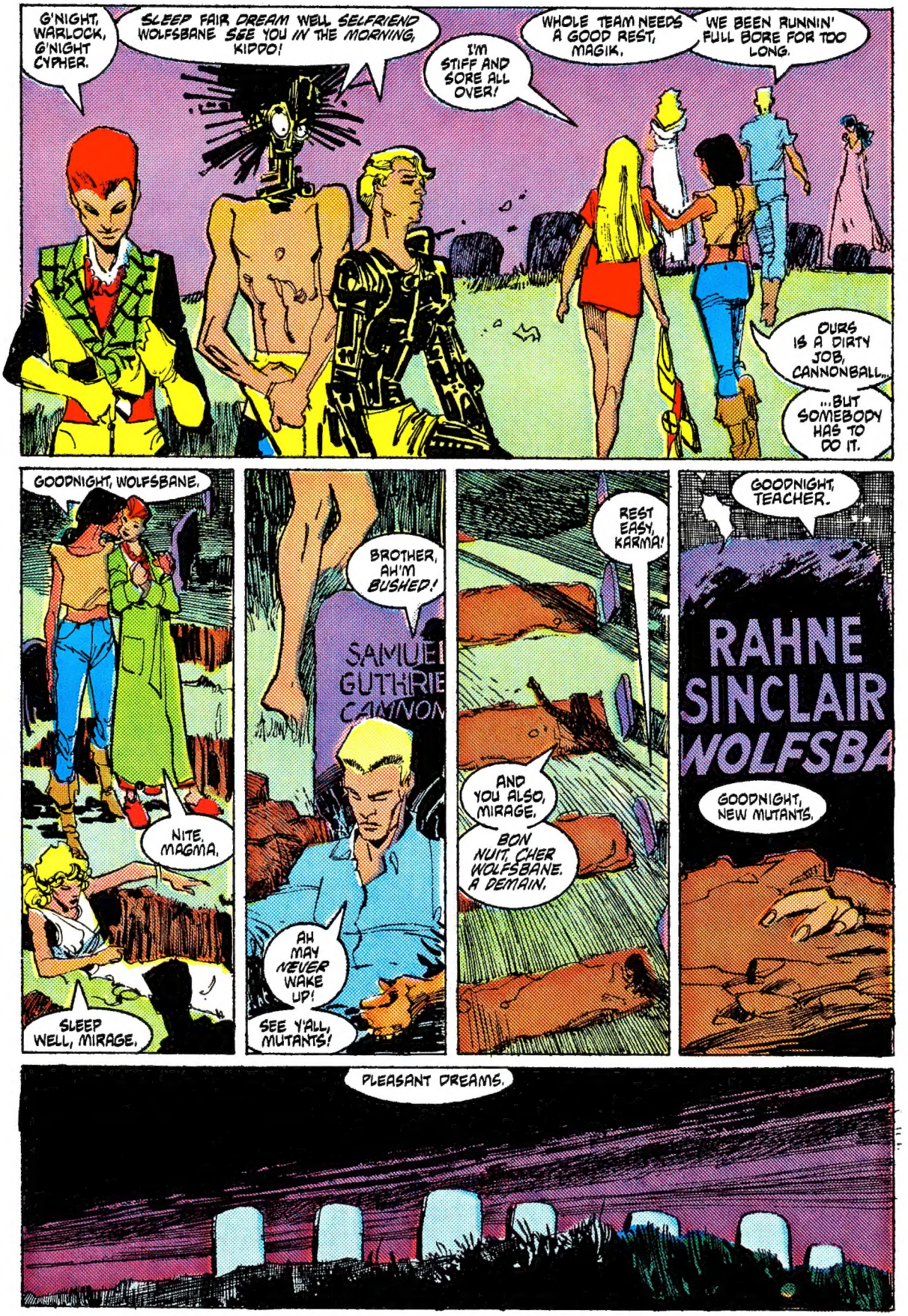

STAN LEE PRESENTS
AFTERMATH!
STARRING the NEW MUTANTS
"I TELL MYSELF THIS IS NOT SO, IT CANNOT BE HAPPENING.
"YET EVEN AS I SCREAM MY DENIALS, MY STUDENTS RACE HEADLONG INTO BATTLE WITH A HORDE OF SENTINELS--
CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER
RICK LEONARDI
GUEST ARTIST
BILL SIENKIEWICZ--INKER
KEN BRUZENAK--LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER--COLORIST
ANN NOCENTI--EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER--EDITOR IN CH
"--GIANT ROBOTS BUILT BY HUMANS TO KILL MUTANTS, EVEN THESE CHILDREN...
"...SOLELY BECAUSE WE ARE DIFFERENT, BORN WITH ABILITIES THAT MAKE US OUTCASTS FROM HUMANITY.
"ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE SEEN MY PEOPLE PERISH-- MY FATHER'S GENERATION, MY OWN, AND NOW THE NEW MUTANTS' AS WELL.
"I AM MAGNETO, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM. I WIELD POWER BEYOND COMPREHENSION--
"--YET I FIND MYSELF HELPLESS TO SAVE THOSE I CARE FOR, WHO TRUST AND DEPEND ON ME.

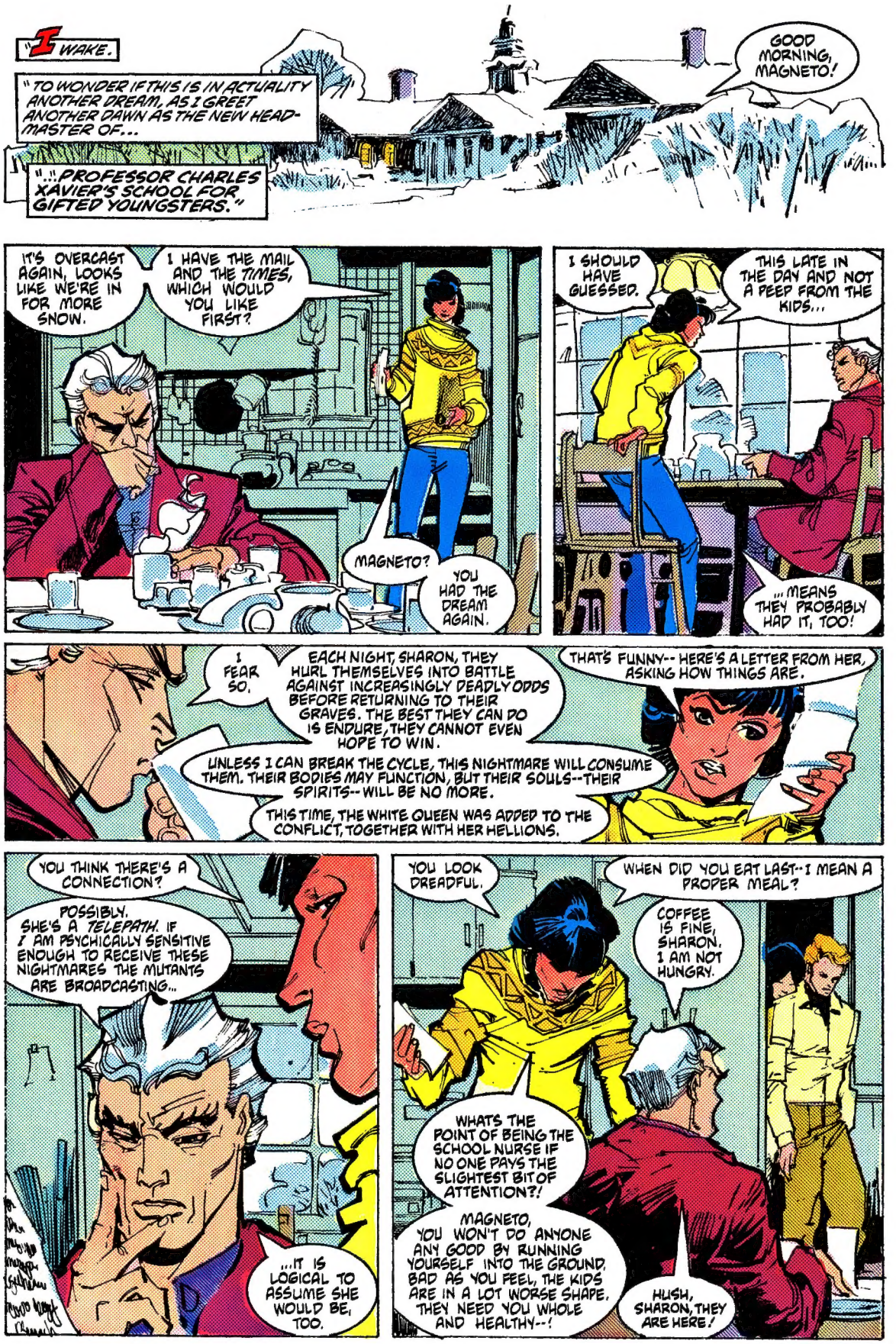
**THE NEW MUTANTS™ Vol. 1, No. 38, April, 1986.** Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1985 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE NEW MUTANTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEW MUTANTS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.**

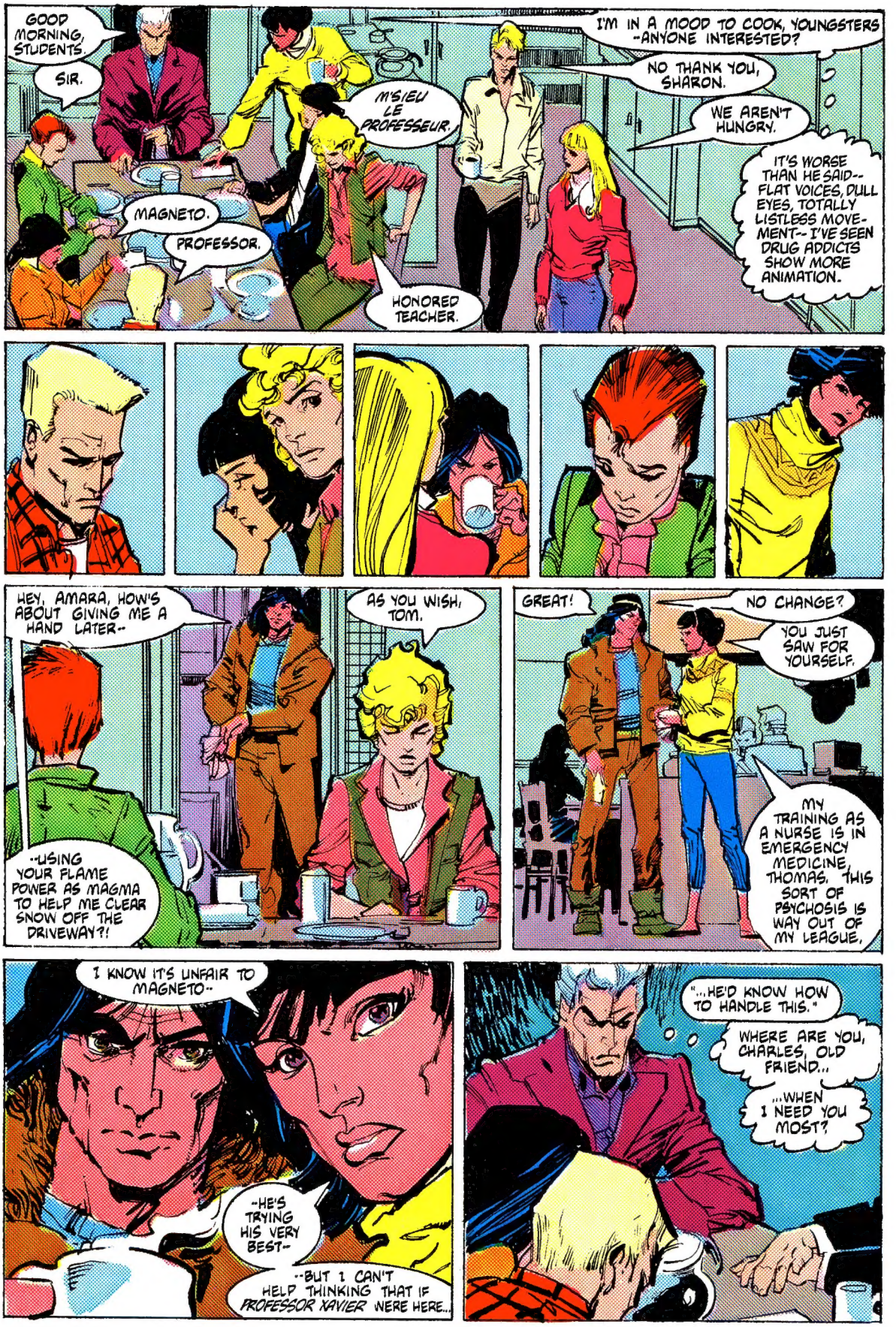
"THE YOUNGSTERS FIGHT WITH A SELFLESS COURAGE, A FIERCE DETERMINATION, THAT MAKES ME PROUD.
"THEY REPRESENT THE BEST OF THE BREED--
"--WHY MUST THEIR LIVES BE SPENT SO NEEDLESSLY?
"IS THIS THE CONSTANT STRUGGLE ALL THEIR FUTURE HOLDS?
"ARE THEY NEVER TO KNOW PEACE OR JOY?
"I AM THEIR TEACHER. I SHOULD KNOW THESE ANSWERS. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHOW THEM THE TRUE WAY.
"BUT I FIND MYSELF AS LOST AS THEY.

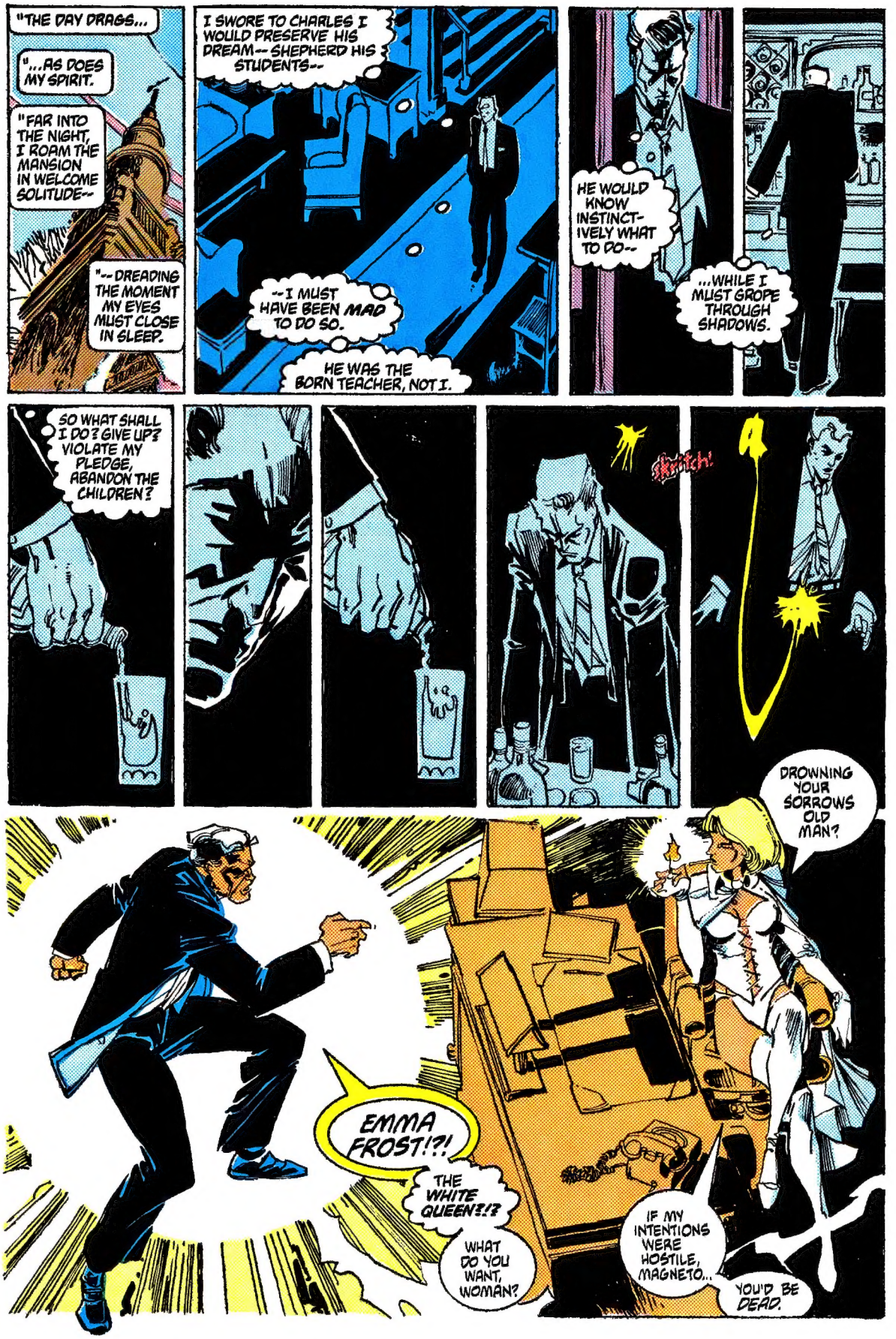

"NEW FOES TAKE THE STAGE-- ANOTHER TEAM, FROM A RIVAL SCHOOL-- AND THE PACE OF CONFLICT QUICKENS.
"THE HARDER THE STRUGGLE, THE GREATER THE ODDS AGAINST THEM, THE MORE THE MUTANTS SEEM TO LIKE IT.
"IMPOSSIBLY, THE CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS COME TO ME AS CLEARLY AS THEIR SPOKEN WORDS.
YIELD, NEW MUTANTS--YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE WHITE QUEEN...
...AND HER HELLIONS!
SHE IS A TELEPATH--TRYING TO SEIZE CONTROL OF MY MIND!
BUT IF I CAN POSSESS JETSTREAM--
--C'EST MAGNIFIQUE! THE QUEEN CAUGHT THAT THOUGHT...
...BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO DODGE OUT OF THE WAY!
BY THE GREAT SPIRIT--A MONSTER--APPEARING FROM NOWHERE!
THANKS, MAGIK!
ANYTIME, MIRAGE. NO NEED TO BE SO SCARED, THUNDERBIRD. IT'S JUST A PET I SUMMONED FROM LIMBO-- EH?!
MAGIK--
--DO YOU NOT LOVE EMPATH?
NO--
--YEHSSS...
YOU CANNOT RESIST, GIRL. YOUR HEART IS MINE, YOU'LL DO WHATEVER I ASK.
I WILL, I WILL!
TRANSPORT ME AND THE WHITE QUEEN TO LIMBO.

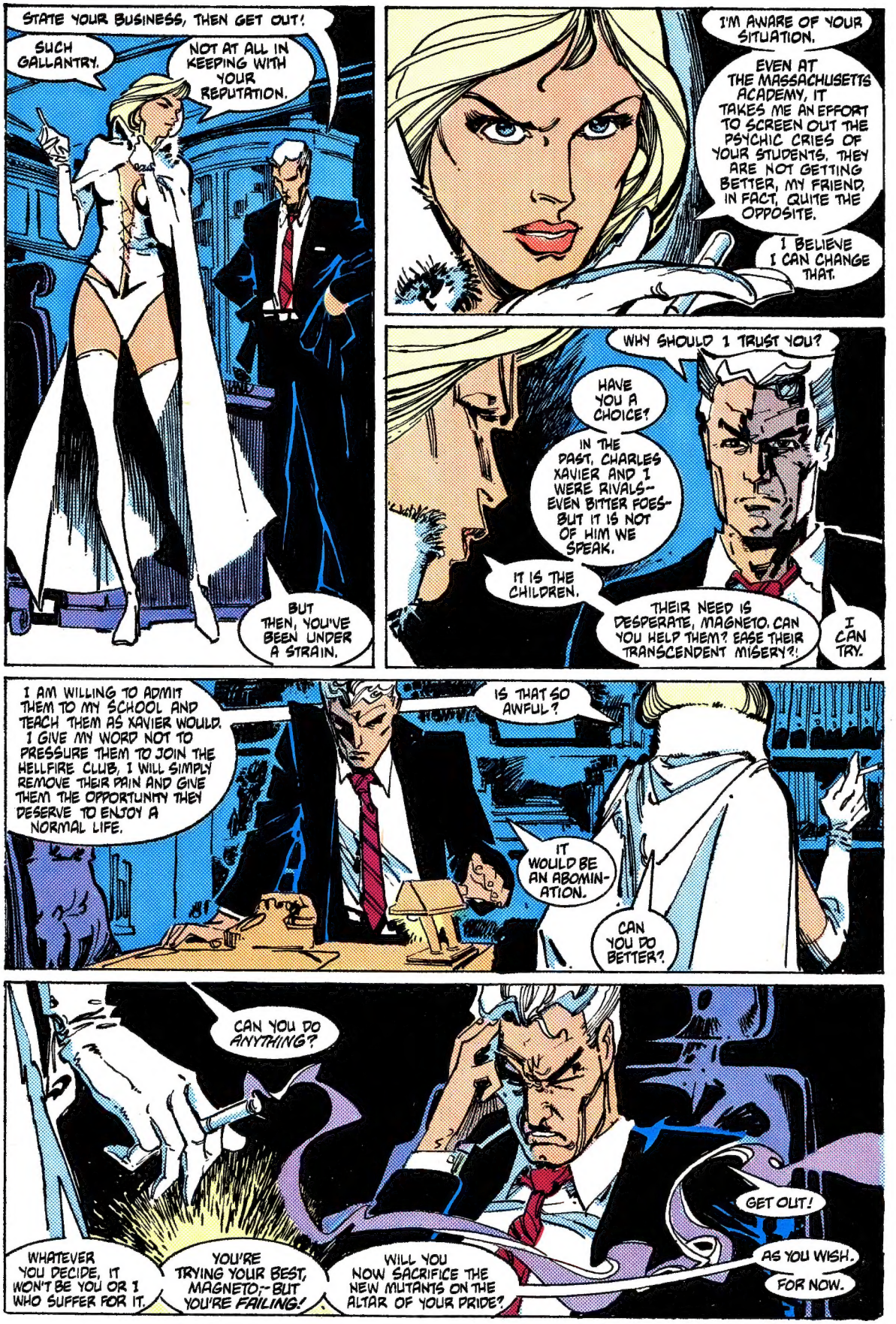

AND SLAY HER!
SOME OTHER TIME, CHUMP!
WHAT-- OBEY ME, BRAT!
IN LIMBO, MY SORCEROUS POWER REIGNS SUPREME. YOUR GLAMOUR IS BROKEN, I'M FREE OF YOUR SPELL.
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
"AS I PERCEIVE MAGIK'S TRIUMPH IN LIMBO, I SOMEHOW ALSO SENSE ANOTHER HELLION, TAROT, AT THE MANSION, DRAW A CARD FROM HER ENCHANTED DECK...
"... AND BRING IT TO LIFE!
"BUT MIRAGE, CO-LEADER OF THE MUTANTS, IS READY FOR HER.
TAROT CONTROLS AND SUSTAINS HER CREATIONS -- DEAL WITH HER...
...AND I'LL DEFEAT THE KNIGHT.
I'LL REACH INTO HER MIND WITH MY SPECIAL PSI-TALENT...
...AND PULL FORTH A SPIRIT-IMAGE...
...OF HER HEART'S DESIRE, HER TRUE LOVE!
"BUT THEN, TO MY AMAZEMENT, I BEHOLD MYSELF, AND HEAR MY OWN VOICE..."
STUDENTS! THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
AW, C'MON, TEACH-- WHY DO WE HAVE TO QUIT WHEN WE'RE HAVING SOME REAL FUN?
I JUST LOVE ALMOST DYING.
AND SOMEDAY CYPHER YOU SHALL.
BUT TONIGHT, IT'S TIME FOR BED.

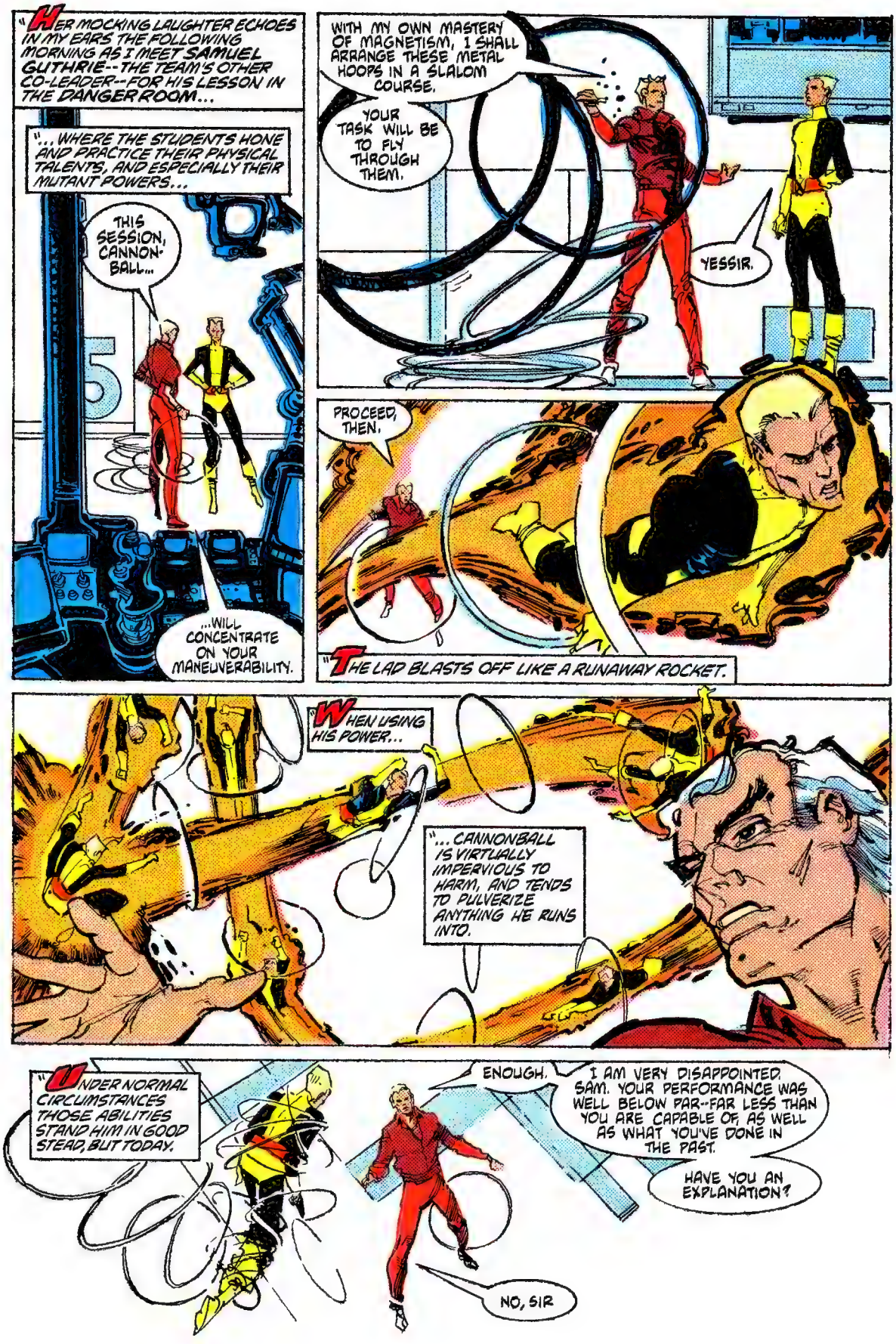

G'NIGHT, WARLOCK, G'NIGHT CYPHER.
SLEEP FAIR DREAM WELL SELFRIEND WOLFSBANE SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, KIDDO!
I'M STIFF AND SORE ALL OVER!
WHOLE TEAM NEEDS A GOOD REST, MAGIK,
WE BEEN RUNNIN' FULL BORE FOR TOO LONG.
OURS IS A DIRTY JOB, CANNONBALL...
...BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO DO IT.
GOODNIGHT, WOLFSBANE.
NITE, MAGMA.
SLEEP WELL, MIRAGE.
BROTHER, AH'M BUSHED!
SAMUEL GUTHRIE CANNON
AH MAY NEVER WAKE UP!
SEE Y'ALL, MUTANTS!
REST EASY, KARMA!
AND YOU ALSO, MIRAGE.
BON NUIT, CHER WOLFSBANE. A DEMAIN.
GOODNIGHT, TEACHER.
RAHNE SINCLAIR
WOLFSBA
GOODNIGHT, NEW MUTANTS.
PLEASANT DREAMS.


"I WAKE.
"TO WONDER IF THIS IS IN ACTUALITY ANOTHER DREAM, AS I GREET ANOTHER DAWN AS THE NEW HEADMASTER OF...
"...PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS."
GOOD MORNING, MAGNETO!
IT'S OVERCAST AGAIN, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR MORE SNOW.
I HAVE THE MAIL AND THE TIMES, WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE FIRST?
MAGNETO?
YOU HAD THE DREAM AGAIN.
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
THIS LATE IN THE DAY AND NOT A PEEP FROM THE KIDS...
...MEANS THEY PROBABLY HAD IT, TOO!
I FEAR SO.
EACH NIGHT, SHARON, THEY HURL THEMSELVES INTO BATTLE AGAINST INCREASINGLY DEADLY ODDS BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR GRAVES. THE BEST THEY CAN DO IS ENDURE, THEY CANNOT EVEN HOPE TO WIN.
UNLESS I CAN BREAK THE CYCLE, THIS NIGHTMARE WILL CONSUME THEM. THEIR BODIES MAY FUNCTION, BUT THEIR SOULS--THEIR SPIRITS--WILL BE NO MORE.
THIS TIME, THE WHITE QUEEN WAS ADDED TO THE CONFLICT, TOGETHER WITH HER HELLIONS.
THAT'S FUNNY-- HERE'S A LETTER FROM HER, ASKING HOW THINGS ARE.
YOU THINK THERE'S A CONNECTION?
POSSIBLY. SHE'S A TELEPATH. IF I AM PSYCHICALLY SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THESE NIGHTMARES THE MUTANTS ARE BROADCASTING...
...IT IS LOGICAL TO ASSUME SHE WOULD BE, TOO.
YOU LOOK DREADFUL.
WHEN DID YOU EAT LAST--I MEAN A PROPER MEAL?
COFFEE IS FINE, SHARON, I AM NOT HUNGRY.
WHATS THE POINT OF BEING THE SCHOOL NURSE IF NO ONE PAYS THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF ATTENTION?!
MAGNETO, YOU WON'T DO ANYONE ANY GOOD BY RUNNING YOURSELF INTO THE GROUND. BAD AS YOU FEEL, THE KIDS ARE IN A LOT WORSE SHAPE. THEY NEED YOU WHOLE AND HEALTHY--!
HUSH, SHARON, THEY ARE HERE!

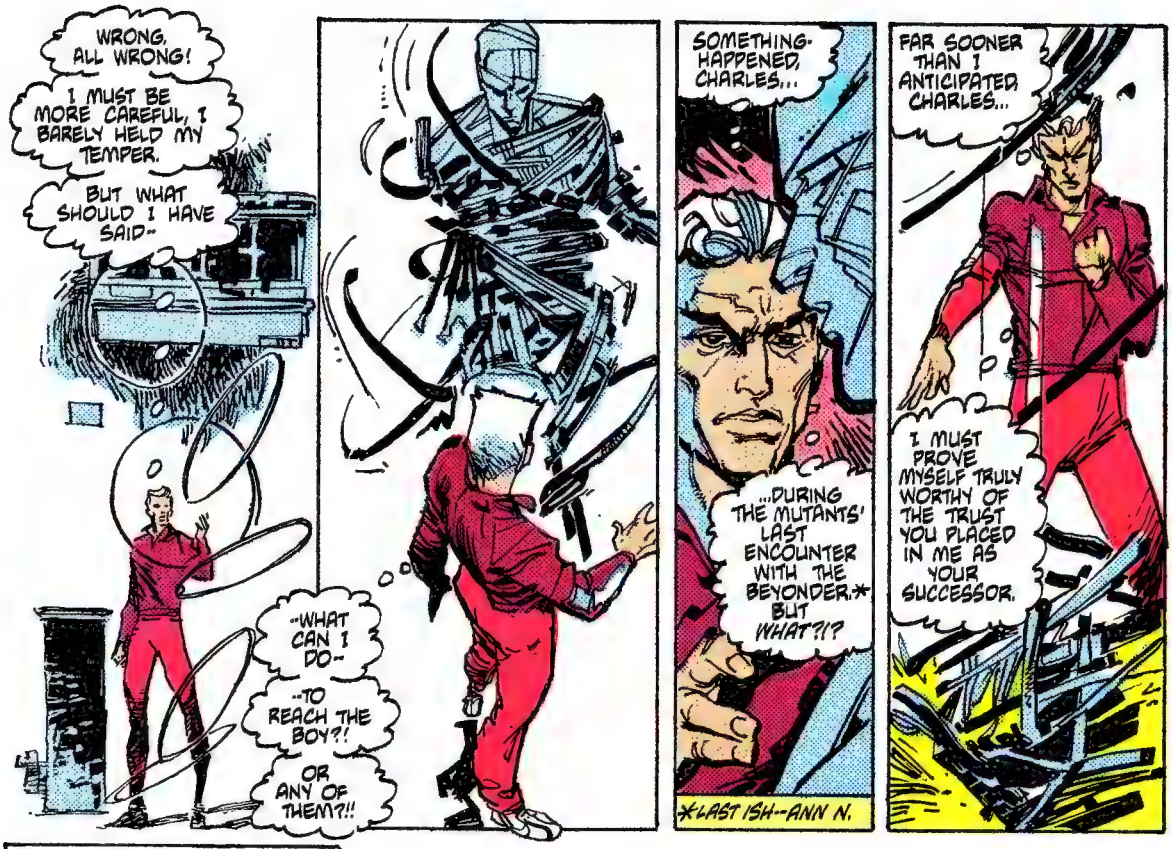

GOOD MORNING, STUDENTS.
SIR.
M'SIEU LE PROFESSEUR.
MAGNETO.
PROFESSOR.
HONORED TEACHER.
I'M IN A MOOD TO COOK, YOUNGSTERS --ANYONE INTERESTED?
NO THANK YOU, SHARON.
WE AREN'T HUNGRY.
IT'S WORSE THAN HE SAID-- FLAT VOICES, DULL EYES, TOTALLY LISTLESS MOVEMENT-- I'VE SEEN DRUG ADDICTS SHOW MORE ANIMATION.
HEY, AMARA, HOW'S ABOUT GIVING ME A HAND LATER--
AS YOU WISH, TOM.
--USING YOUR FLAME POWER AS MAGMA TO HELP ME CLEAR SNOW OFF THE DRIVEWAY?!
GREAT!
NO CHANGE?
YOU JUST SAW FOR YOURSELF.
MY TRAINING AS A NURSE IS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE, THOMAS. THIS SORT OF PSYCHOSIS IS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.
I KNOW IT'S UNFAIR TO MAGNETO--
--HE'S TRYING HIS VERY BEST--
--BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT IF PROFESSOR XAVIER WERE HERE...
"...HE'D KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS."
WHERE ARE YOU, CHARLES, OLD FRIEND...
...WHEN I NEED YOU MOST?

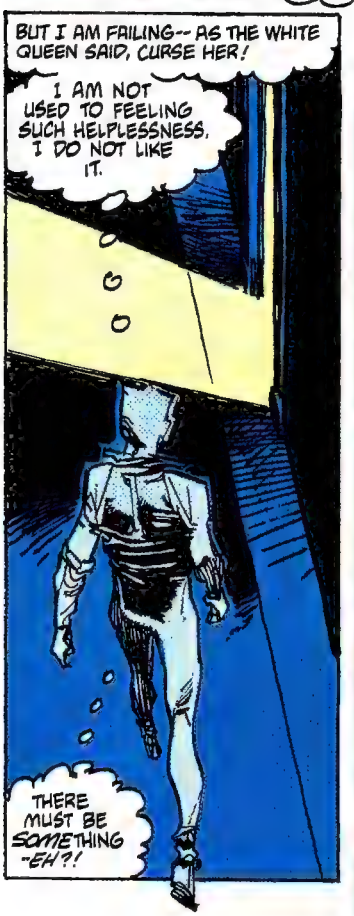

"THE DAY DRAGS...
"...AS DOES MY SPIRIT.
"FAR INTO THE NIGHT, I ROAM THE MANSION IN WELCOME SOLITUDE--
"--DREADING THE MOMENT MY EYES MUST CLOSE IN SLEEP.
I SWORE TO CHARLES I WOULD PRESERVE HIS DREAM-- SHEPHERD HIS STUDENTS--
--I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD TO DO SO.
HE WAS THE BORN TEACHER, NOT I.
HE WOULD KNOW INSTINCT-IVELY WHAT TO DO--
...WHILE I MUST GROPE THROUGH SHADOWS.
SO WHAT SHALL I DO? GIVE UP? VIOLATE MY PLEDGE, ABANDON THE CHILDREN?
skritch!
DROWNING YOUR SORROWS OLD MAN?
EMMA FROST!?!
THE WHITE QUEEN!?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, WOMAN?
IF MY INTENTIONS WERE HOSTILE, MAGNETO...
YOU'D BE DEAD.

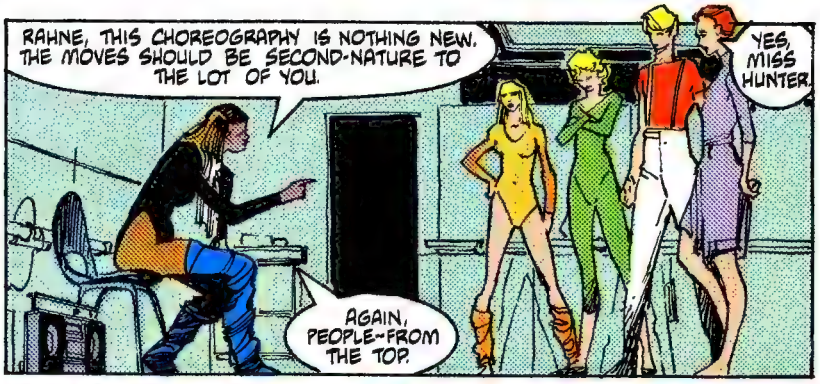

STATE YOUR BUSINESS, THEN GET OUT!
SUCH GALLANTRY.
NOT AT ALL IN KEEPING WITH YOUR REPUTATION.
BUT THEN, YOU'VE BEEN UNDER A STRAIN.
I'M AWARE OF YOUR SITUATION.
EVEN AT THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, IT TAKES ME AN EFFORT TO SCREEN OUT THE PSYCHIC CRIES OF YOUR STUDENTS. THEY ARE NOT GETTING BETTER, MY FRIEND, IN FACT, QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
I BELIEVE I CAN CHANGE THAT.
WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?
HAVE YOU A CHOICE?
IN THE PAST, CHARLES XAVIER AND I WERE RIVALS-- EVEN BITTER FOES-- BUT IT IS NOT OF HIM WE SPEAK.
IT IS THE CHILDREN.
THEIR NEED IS DESPERATE, MAGNETO. CAN YOU HELP THEM? EASE THEIR TRANSCENDENT MISERY?!
I CAN TRY.
I AM WILLING TO ADMIT THEM TO MY SCHOOL AND TEACH THEM AS XAVIER WOULD. I GIVE MY WORD NOT TO PRESSURE THEM TO JOIN THE HELLFIRE CLUB. I WILL SIMPLY REMOVE THEIR PAIN AND GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY THEY DESERVE TO ENJOY A NORMAL LIFE.
IS THAT SO AWFUL?
IT WOULD BE AN ABOMINATION.
CAN YOU DO BETTER?
CAN YOU DO ANYTHING?
WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, IT WON'T BE YOU OR I WHO SUFFER FOR IT.
YOU'RE TRYING YOUR BEST, MAGNETO-- BUT YOU'RE FAILING!
WILL YOU NOW SACRIFICE THE NEW MUTANTS ON THE ALTAR OF YOUR PRIDE?
GET OUT!
AS YOU WISH.
FOR NOW.

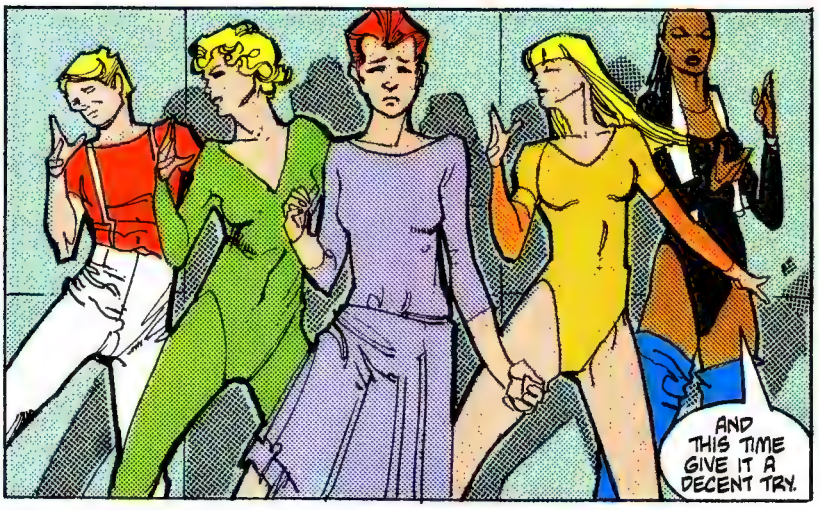

"HER MOCKING LAUGHTER ECHOES IN MY EARS THE FOLLOWING MORNING AS I MEET SAMUEL GUTHRIE--THE TEAM'S OTHER CO-LEADER--FOR HIS LESSON IN THE DANGER ROOM...
"...WHERE THE STUDENTS HONE AND PRACTICE THEIR PHYSICAL TALENTS, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR MUTANT POWERS...
THIS SESSION, CANNONBALL...
...WILL CONCENTRATE ON YOUR MANEUVERABILITY.
WITH MY OWN MASTERY OF MAGNETISM, I SHALL ARRANGE THESE METAL HOOPS IN A SLALOM COURSE.
YOUR TASK WILL BE TO FLY THROUGH THEM.
YESSIR.
PROCEED, THEN.
"THE LAD BLASTS OFF LIKE A RUNAWAY ROCKET.
"WHEN USING HIS POWER...
"...CANNONBALL IS VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO HARM, AND TENDS TO PULVERIZE ANYTHING HE RUNS INTO.
"UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES THOSE ABILITIES STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD, BUT TODAY.
ENOUGH.
I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED, SAM. YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS WELL BELOW PAR--FAR LESS THAN YOU ARE CAPABLE OF, AS WELL AS WHAT YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST.
HAVE YOU AN EXPLANATION?
NO, SIR

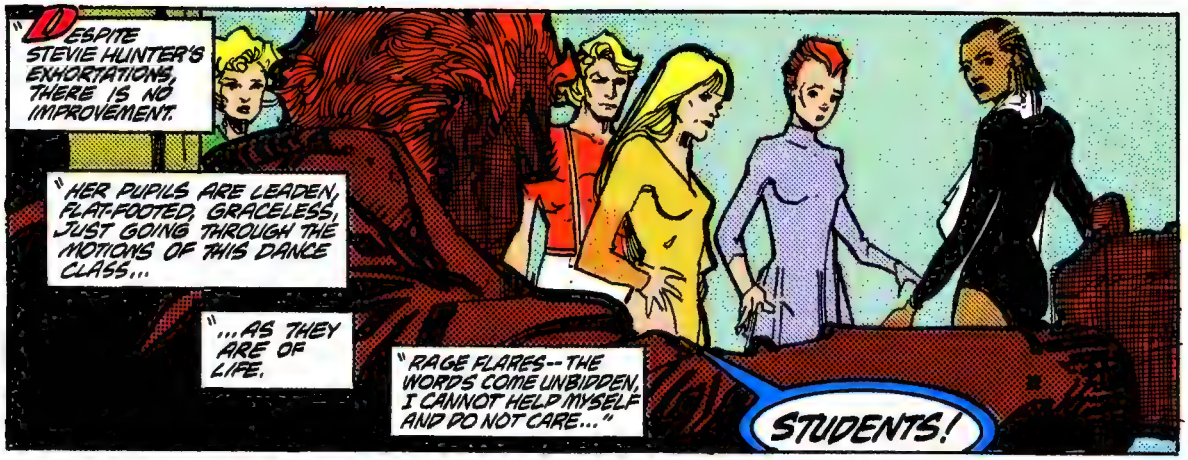
HE ISN'T INTERESTED. THE BOY COULDN'T CARE LESS.
I MIGHT AS WELL BE TALKING TO THE WALL.
I EXPECT BETTER OF YOU, SAM. AS YOU SHOULD, OF YOURSELF.
SORRY, SIR.
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
YESSIR.
SAM, WHAT IS WRONG?
I WANT TO HELP--!
NO NEED, SIR. EVERYTHING'S FINE.
REALLY?
SURE.
YOU AND DANIELLE ARE THE LEADERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS-- THE YOUNGER STUDENTS TURN TO YOU FOR GUIDANCE...
...AS I HOPE YOU MIGHT TURN TO ME.
OPEN YOUR EYES LAD--LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU ALL!
DOESN'T THAT CONCERN YOU?
DON'T YOU CARE?!
NOPE.
YOU AND THE OTHERS HAVE REGRESSED NEARLY TO THE LEVELS YOU ESTABLISHED WHEN YOU ENTERED THE SCHOOL. YOU'RE HURTING YOURSELVES, CANNONBALL, BY THIS BEHAVIOR--FAILING YOURSELVES!
ARE WE FINISHED, SIR? CAN AH GO?
RUN FIVE KILOMETERS ON THE TRACK. THEN, MEET ME IN THE CLASSROOM. YOUR ACADEMIC WORK LATELY HAS PROVEN EQUALLY UNSATISFACTORY.


WRONG, ALL WRONG!
I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL, I BARELY HELD MY TEMPER.
BUT WHAT SHOULD I HAVE SAID--
"WHAT CAN I DO--
--TO REACH THE BOY?!
OR ANY OF THEM?!!
SOMETHING HAPPENED, CHARLES...
...DURING THE MUTANTS' LAST ENCOUNTER WITH THE BEYONDER.* BUT WHAT?!?
*LAST ISH--ANN N.
FAR SOONER THAN I ANTICIPATED, CHARLES...
I MUST PROVE MYSELF TRULY WORTHY OF THE TRUST YOU PLACED IN ME AS YOUR SUCCESSOR.


BUT I AM FAILING-- AS THE WHITE QUEEN SAID, CURSE HER!
I AM NOT USED TO FEELING SUCH HELPLESSNESS. I DO NOT LIKE IT.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING -EH?!

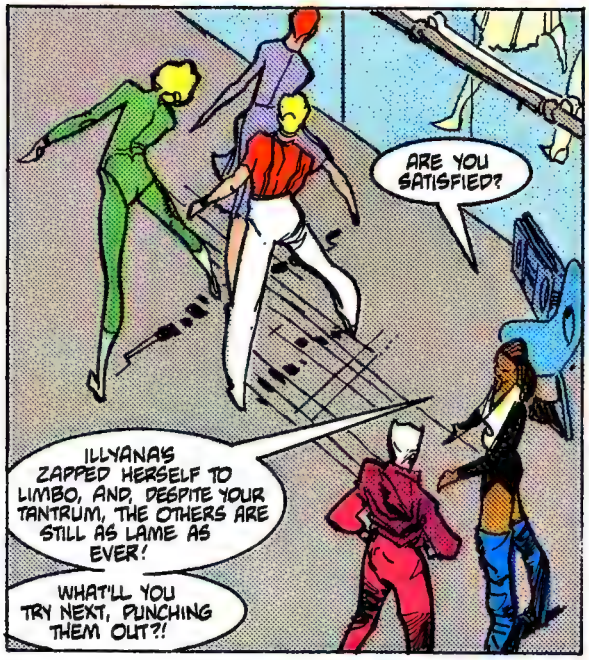

RAHNE, THIS CHOREOGRAPHY IS NOTHING NEW. THE MOVES SHOULD BE SECOND-NATURE TO THE LOT OF YOU.
YES, MISS HUNTER.
AGAIN, PEOPLE--FROM THE TOP.


AND THIS TIME GIVE IT A DECENT TRY.

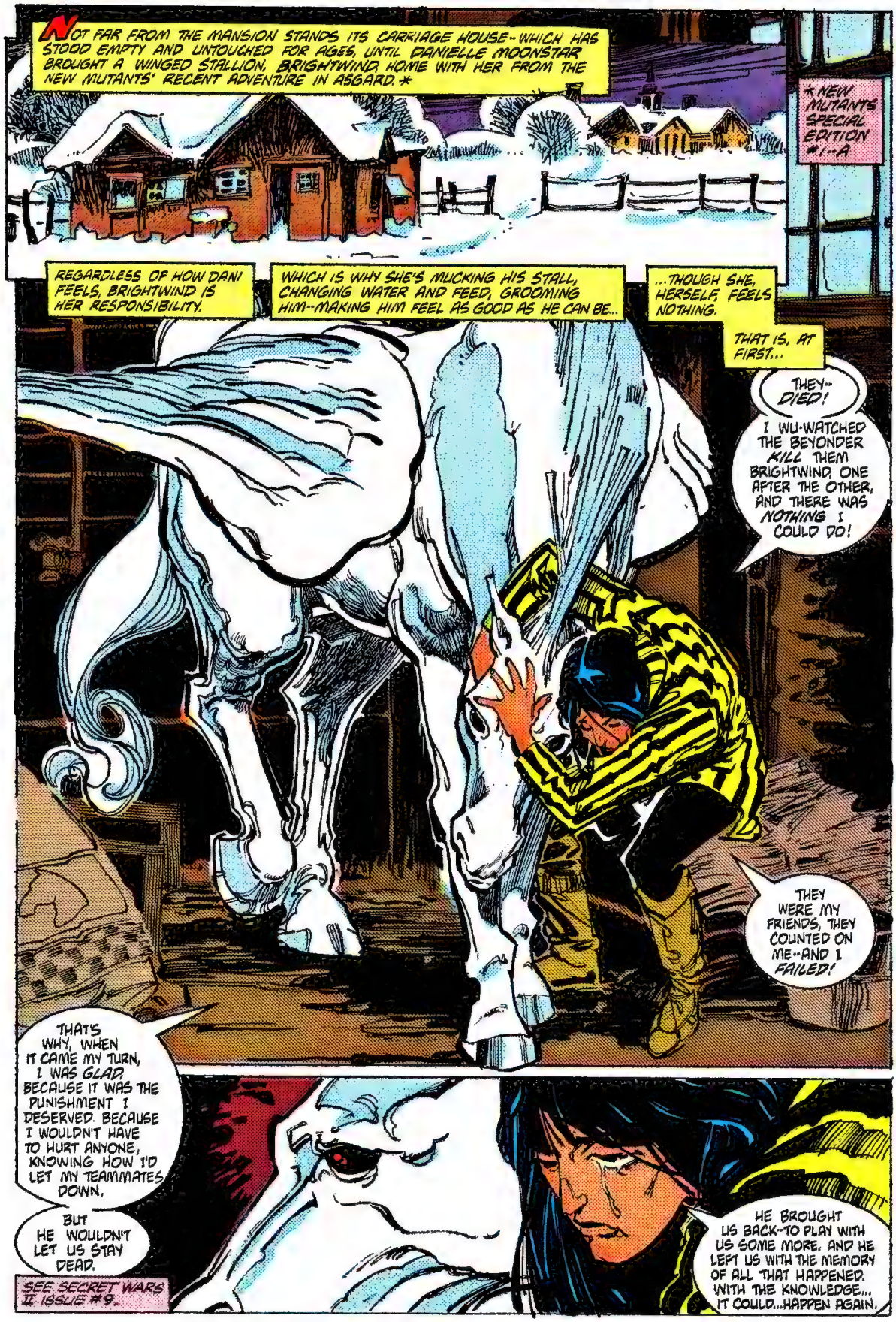

"DESPITE STEVIE HUNTER'S EXHORTATIONS, THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT.
"HER PUPILS ARE LEADEN, FLAT-FOOTED, GRACELESS, JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF THIS DANCE CLASS...
"...AS THEY ARE OF LIFE.
"RAGE FLARES--THE WORDS COME UNBIDDEN, I CANNOT HELP MYSELF AND DO NOT CARE..."
STUDENTS!

WHEN MS. HUNTER--OR I, OR ANY TEACHER IN THIS SCHOOL--GIVES YOU AN ASSIGNMENT...
...YOU WILL EXECUTE IT, TO THE VERY BEST OF YOUR ABILITY!
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
NOW, PERFORM THE SEQUENCE AGAIN...

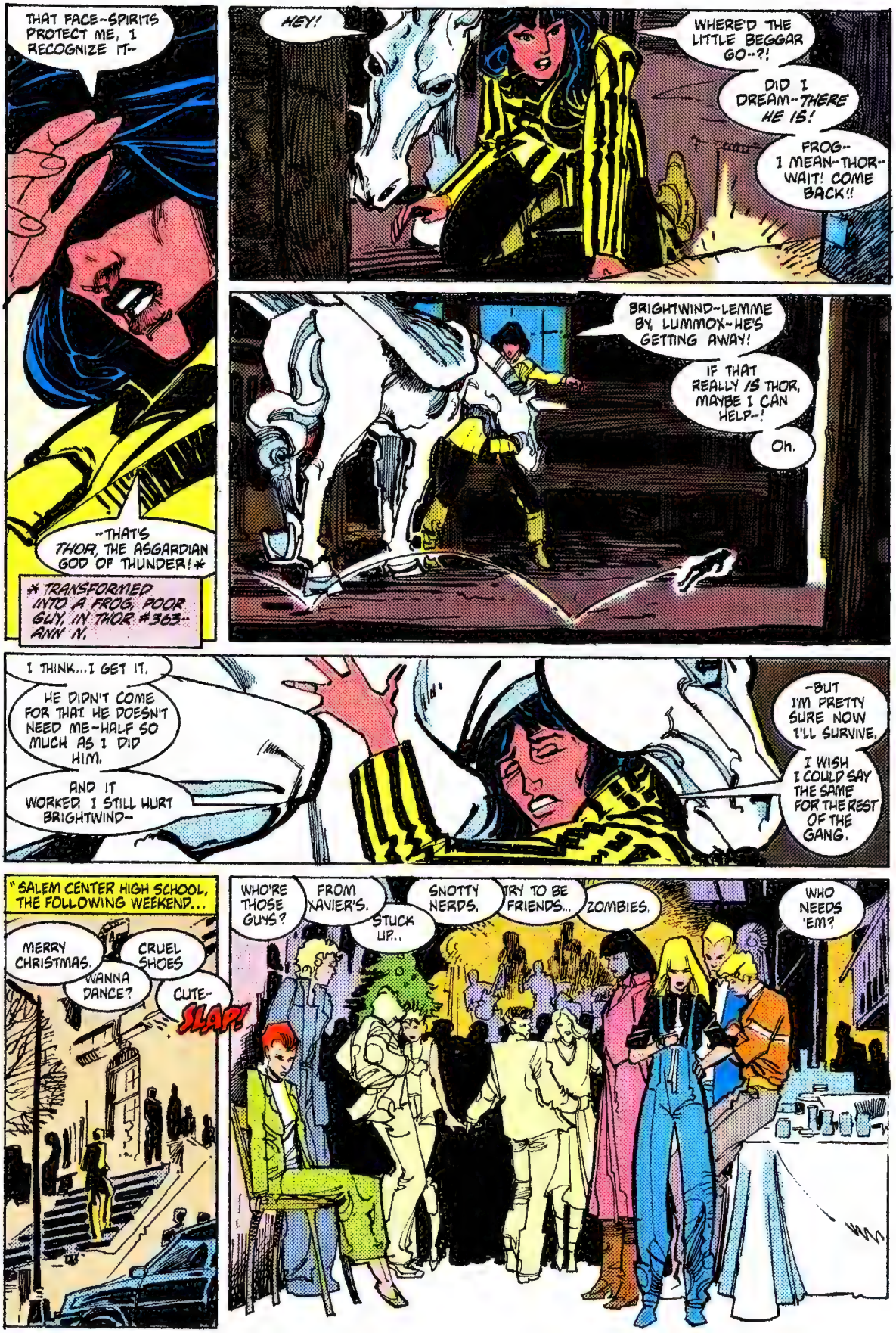
...AND THIS TIME, DO IT PROPERLY!
WHO NEEDS IT?
WHO CARES?
ILLYANA!
I'LL BE BACK WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT.

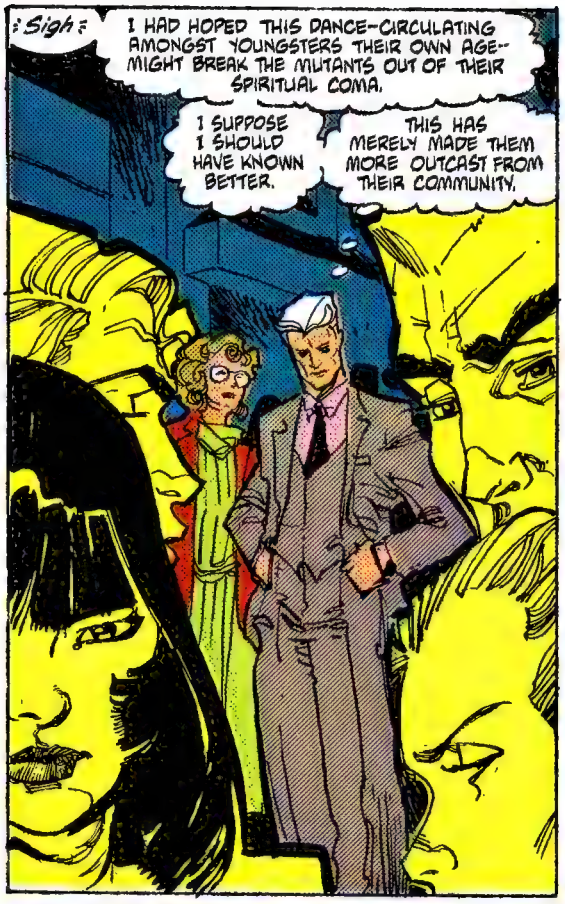

ARE YOU SATISFIED?
ILLYANA'S ZAPPED HERSELF TO LIMBO, AND, DESPITE YOUR TANTRUM, THE OTHERS ARE STILL AS LAME AS EVER!
WHAT'LL YOU TRY NEXT, PUNCHING THEM OUT?!

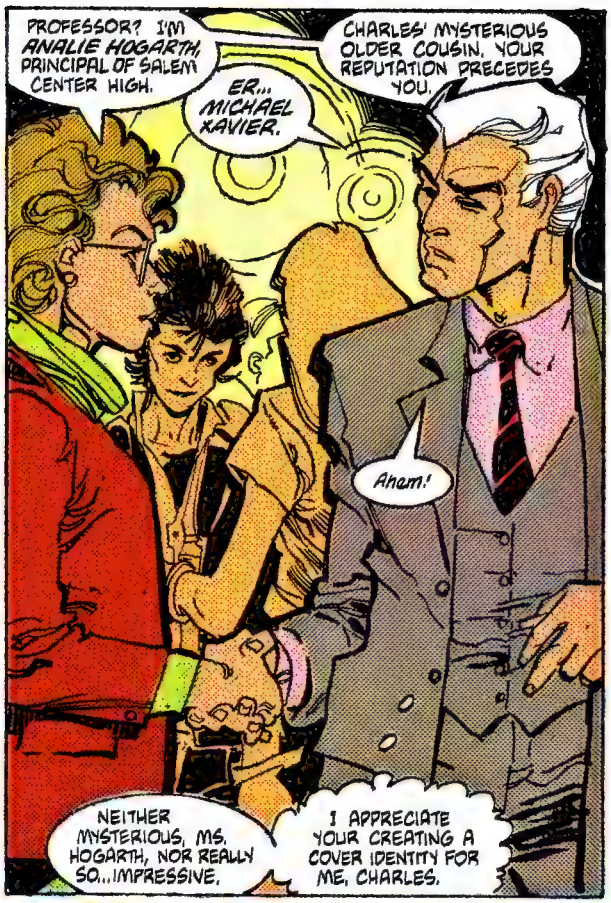
THIS IS MY CLASS, MAGNETO.
AND IF YOU'VE NO OBJECTIONS...
...I'D LIKE TO FINISH IT...
...WITHOUT ANY MORE IDIOT INTERFERENCE.

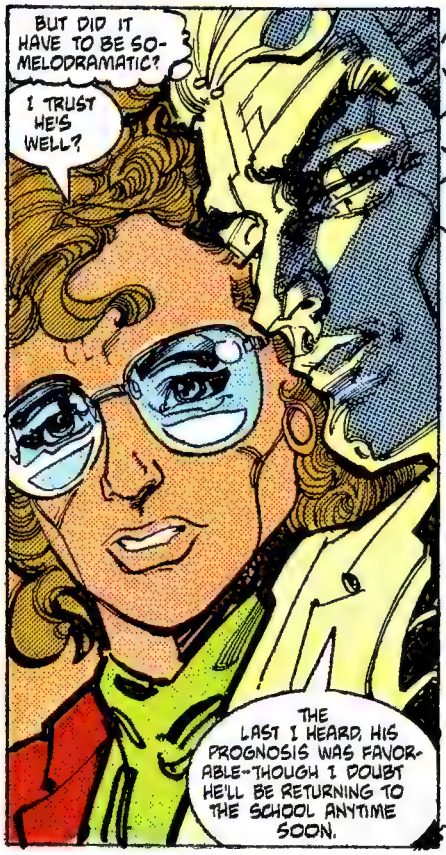

NOT FAR FROM THE MANSION STANDS ITS CARRIAGE HOUSE--WHICH HAS STOOD EMPTY AND UNTOUCHED FOR AGES, UNTIL DANIELLE MOONSTAR BROUGHT A WINGED STALLION, BRIGHTWIND, HOME WITH HER FROM THE NEW MUTANTS' RECENT ADVENTURE IN ASGARD.*
* NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1--A
REGARDLESS OF HOW DANI FEELS, BRIGHTWIND IS HER RESPONSIBILITY.
WHICH IS WHY SHE'S MUCKING HIS STALL, CHANGING WATER AND FEED, GROOMING HIM--MAKING HIM FEEL AS GOOD AS HE CAN BE...
...THOUGH SHE, HERSELF, FEELS NOTHING.
THAT IS, AT FIRST...
THEY--DIED!
I WU-WATCHED THE BEYONDER KILL THEM BRIGHTWIND, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO!
THEY WERE MY FRIENDS, THEY COUNTED ON ME--AND I FAILED!
THAT'S WHY, WHEN IT CAME MY TURN, I WAS GLAD. BECAUSE IT WAS THE PUNISHMENT I DESERVED. BECAUSE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO HURT ANYONE, KNOWING HOW I'D LET MY TEAMMATES DOWN.
BUT HE WOULDN'T LET US STAY DEAD.
HE BROUGHT US BACK--TO PLAY WITH US SOME MORE. AND HE LEFT US WITH THE MEMORY OF ALL THAT HAPPENED. WITH THE KNOWLEDGE... IT COULD...HAPPEN AGAIN.
SEE SECRET WARS II ISSUE #9.

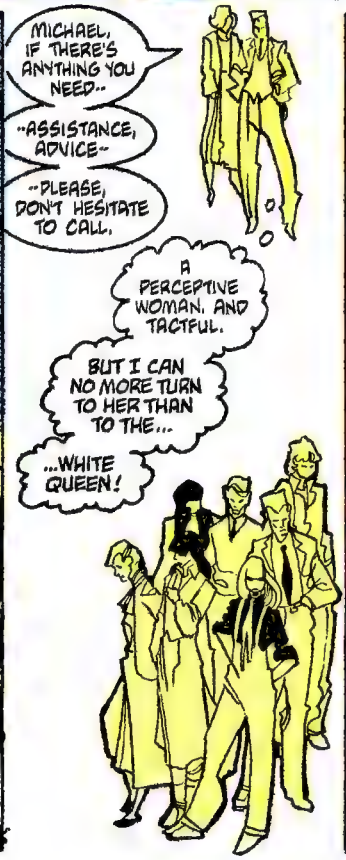
WE WERE TOLD HE'S DEAD.
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
EVEN IF HE IS, SUPPOSE THERE'S SOMEONE BIGGER-- HUH?!
WHOA, BRIGHTWIND! EASY, BIG FELLA!
WHAT'S THE RUCKUS?
BRIGHTWIND?!!
YOU'RE BOWING!?!
TO A FROG?!?
A GLOWING FROG?!!
I DON'T BELIEVE-!
Thine eyes, maiden?
A VOICE-- I HEAR IT-- INSIDE MY HEAD!
Valkyria thou 'art. But mortal, besides.
A gift as great as it is unique.
Thou must ne'er lose thy faith, young warrior.
Thy worst foe--the shrivelar of souls, who must NE'ER be yieldad to--is DESPAIR.
Triumph o'er it...
...and thou wilt triumph over ALL


THAT FACE--SPIRITS PROTECT ME, I RECOGNIZE IT--
--THAT'S THOR, THE ASGARDIAN GOD OF THUNDER!*
* TRANSFORMED INTO A FROG, POOR GUY, IN THOR #363-- ANN N.
HEY!
WHERE'D THE LITTLE BEGGAR GO--?!
DID I DREAM--THERE HE IS!
FROG-- I MEAN--THOR-- WAIT! COME BACK!!
BRIGHTWIND--LEMME BY, LUMMOX--HE'S GETTING AWAY!
IF THAT REALLY IS THOR, MAYBE I CAN HELP--!
Oh.
I THINK...I GET IT.
HE DIDN'T COME FOR THAT. HE DOESN'T NEED ME--HALF SO MUCH AS I DID HIM.
AND IT WORKED. I STILL HURT BRIGHTWIND--
--BUT I'M PRETTY SURE NOW I'LL SURVIVE.
I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR THE REST OF THE GANG.
"SALEM CENTER HIGH SCHOOL, THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND...
MERRY CHRISTMAS.
CRUEL SHOES
WANNA DANCE?
CUTE--
SLAP!
WHO'RE THOSE GUYS?
FROM XAVIER'S.
STUCK UP...
SNOTTY NERDS.
TRY TO BE FRIENDS...
ZOMBIES.
WHO NEEDS 'EM?

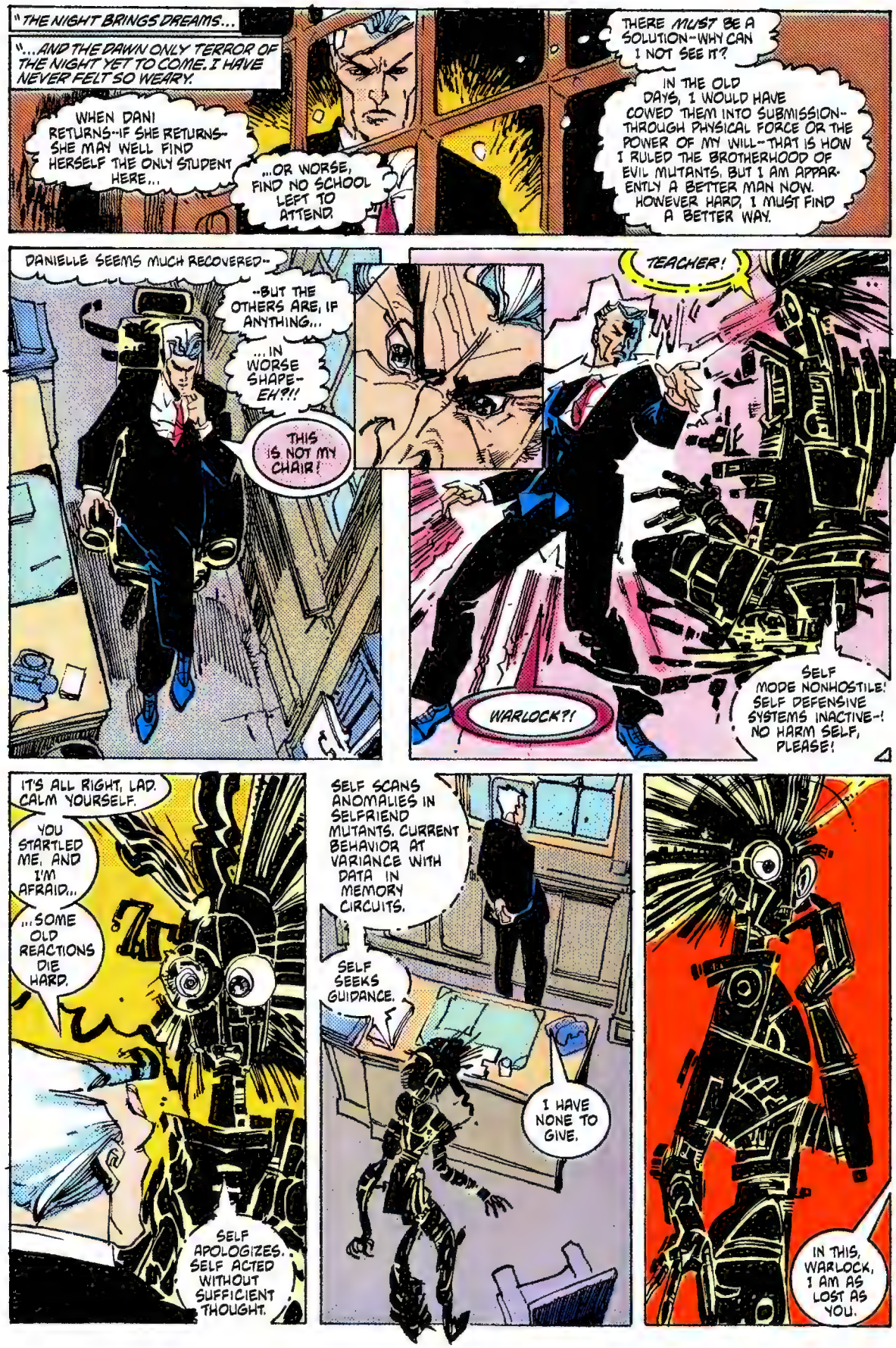

:Sigh:
I HAD HOPED THIS DANCE-CIRCULATING AMONGST YOUNGSTERS THEIR OWN AGE-- MIGHT BREAK THE MUTANTS OUT OF THEIR SPIRITUAL COMA.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.
THIS HAS MERELY MADE THEM MORE OUTCAST FROM THEIR COMMUNITY.

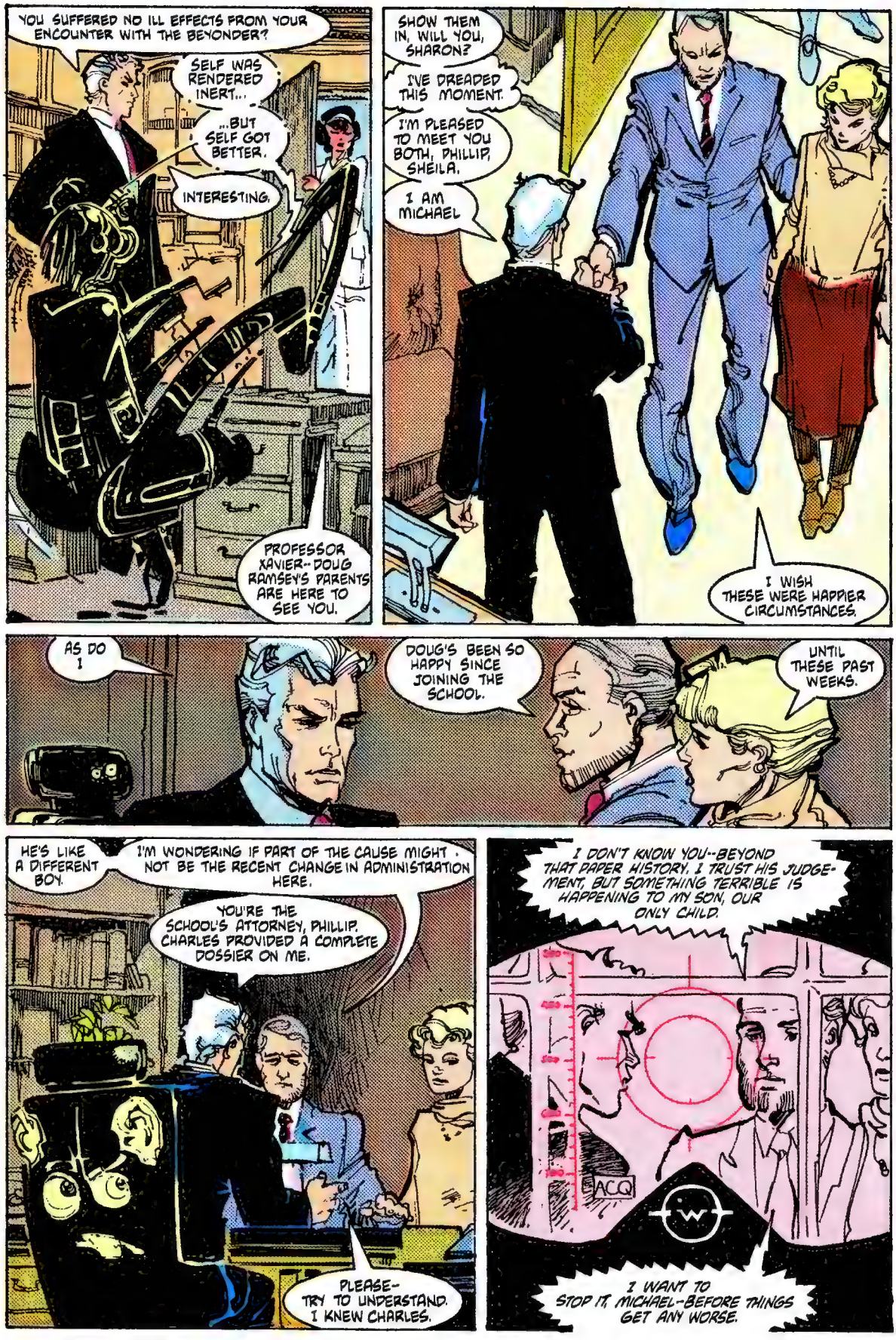

PROFESSOR? I'M ANALIE HOGARTH, PRINCIPAL OF SALEM CENTER HIGH.
ER... MICHAEL XAVIER.
CHARLES' MYSTERIOUS OLDER COUSIN. YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU.
Ahem!
NEITHER MYSTERIOUS, MS. HOGARTH, NOR REALLY SO...IMPRESSIVE.
I APPRECIATE YOUR CREATING A COVER IDENTITY FOR ME, CHARLES.


BUT DID IT HAVE TO BE SO-MELODRAMATIC?
I TRUST HE'S WELL?
THE LAST I HEARD, HIS PROGNOSIS WAS FAVORABLE--THOUGH I DOUBT HE'LL BE RETURNING TO THE SCHOOL ANYTIME SOON.


MICHAEL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED--
--ASSISTANCE, ADVICE--
--PLEASE, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL.
A PERCEPTIVE WOMAN, AND TACTFUL.
BUT I CAN NO MORE TURN TO HER THAN TO THE...
...WHITE QUEEN!

I HEAR DANI MOONSTAR WILL BE HEADING HOME SOON.
TO VISIT HER PARENTS, YES.
I GET THE IMPRESSION, FROM YOUR TONE, THAT YOU DON'T EXPECT HER BACK.


"THE NIGHT BRINGS DREAMS...
"...AND THE DAWN ONLY TERROR OF THE NIGHT YET TO COME. I HAVE NEVER FELT SO WEARY.
WHEN DANI RETURNS--IF SHE RETURNS--SHE MAY WELL FIND HERSELF THE ONLY STUDENT HERE...
...OR WORSE, FIND NO SCHOOL LEFT TO ATTEND.
THERE MUST BE A SOLUTION--WHY CAN I NOT SEE IT?
IN THE OLD DAYS, I WOULD HAVE COWED THEM INTO SUBMISSION--THROUGH PHYSICAL FORCE OR THE POWER OF MY WILL--THAT IS HOW I RULED THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS. BUT I AM APPARENTLY A BETTER MAN NOW. HOWEVER HARD, I MUST FIND A BETTER WAY.
DANIELLE SEEMS MUCH RECOVERED--
--BUT THE OTHERS ARE, IF ANYTHING...
...IN WORSE SHAPE--EH?!!
THIS IS NOT MY CHAIR!
TEACHER!
WARLOCK?!
SELF MODE NONHOSTILE! SELF DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS INACTIVE--! NO HARM SELF, PLEASE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LAD. CALM YOURSELF.
YOU STARTLED ME, AND I'M AFRAID...
...SOME OLD REACTIONS DIE HARD.
SELF APOLOGIZES. SELF ACTED WITHOUT SUFFICIENT THOUGHT.
SELF SCANS ANOMALIES IN SELFRIEND MUTANTS. CURRENT BEHAVIOR AT VARIANCE WITH DATA IN MEMORY CIRCUITS.
SELF SEEKS GUIDANCE.
I HAVE NONE TO GIVE.
IN THIS, WARLOCK, I AM AS LOST AS YOU.


YOU SUFFERED NO ILL EFFECTS FROM YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH THE BEYONDER?
SELF WAS RENDERED INERT...
...BUT SELF GOT BETTER.
INTERESTING.
PROFESSOR XAVIER--DOUG RAMSEY'S PARENTS ARE HERE TO SEE YOU.
SHOW THEM IN, WILL YOU, SHARON?
I'VE DREADED THIS MOMENT.
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU BOTH, PHILLIP, SHEILA.
I AM MICHAEL
I WISH THESE WERE HAPPIER CIRCUMSTANCES.
AS DO I
DOUG'S BEEN SO HAPPY SINCE JOINING THE SCHOOL.
UNTIL THESE PAST WEEKS.
HE'S LIKE A DIFFERENT BOY.
I'M WONDERING IF PART OF THE CAUSE MIGHT NOT BE THE RECENT CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION HERE.
YOU'RE THE SCHOOL'S ATTORNEY, PHILLIP. CHARLES PROVIDED A COMPLETE DOSSIER ON ME.
PLEASE- TRY TO UNDERSTAND. I KNEW CHARLES.
I DON'T KNOW YOU--BEYOND THAT PAPER HISTORY. I TRUST HIS JUDGEMENT, BUT SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING TO MY SON, OUR ONLY CHILD.
ACQ
I WANT TO STOP IT, MICHAEL--BEFORE THINGS GET ANY WORSE.

I'M AFRAID, SEÑOR RAMSEY, THE WORST IS YET TO COME.
POOR MAGNETO- SO LOST AND CONFUSED-- HARDLY HIS TRUE SELF AT ALL. THANKS TO ME.
THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM IS REPUTED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE MUTANTS ON THE PLANET--EVEN THE WHITE QUEEN RESPECTS HIS POWER--
--YET HE IS PUTTY IN THE HANDS OF EMPATH.
HEY! FELLA!
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MAGNETO'S HUMAN ASSISTANTS!
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE ONE OF THE HELLIONS--I RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE FROM THE FILES!
OKAY, KID--INSIDE THE HOUSE, PRONTO! WE'LL LET THE BOSS SORT THIS OUT. AND YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF, HEAR-- EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED, SHARON. THE REST OF THOSE PUNKS COULD BE AROUND.
DON'T WORRY. I AM QUITE ALONE.
BUT I AM NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

Dear Santa,

I've been a pretty good boy this year, if you don't count August. Actually, except for the incident with the Exploding Cantaloupe (Chris Claremont's nose is healing nicely) I was pretty well behaved. Oh, sure, I admit that I put those two goats wearing babushkas in Bob Layton's hotel room in Houston, but as it turned out, Bob, Billy, and Nanny became fast friends. They still write. Also, I can explain the kiddie pool full of lime Jell-o. But not here.

Anyway, I promise I'll never leave an exploding cantaloupe lying around again. How was I to know that Chris was passing by and in the mood for a Boston cooler? It was an accident that *he* got it. It was meant for a more *deserving* party. So, give me a break, huh?

Here's what I want for Christmas:

A castle like Doctor Doom's (but on Park Avenue) so I can say my house is almost as big as John Byrne's.

A hammer like Thor's to use for making fine adjustments on certain members of the creative staff.

A tight-fitting hat, like the one Magneto used to wear, to keep my head from swelling while reading the rave mail.

Steel-hard skin like Luke Cage's for when the occasional hate letter comes in from the occasional irate fan or competitor.

100 pairs of stretch socks.

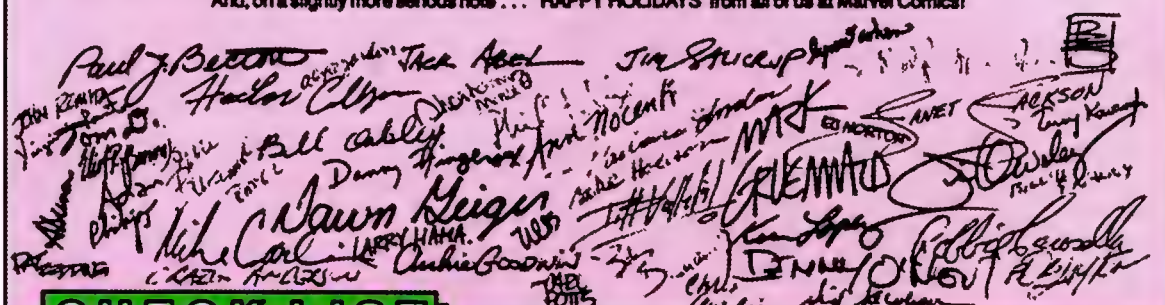
That's enough. But while I'm at it, please bring Chris a tea cozy to keep his nose warm until it's all better, and Bob a goat's cheese cookbook.

Oh, and one more thing. Please give a dozen exploding cantaloupes to you-know-who over at you-know-where.

Sincerely yours,

Jim S.

And, on a slightly more serious note . . . HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at Marvel Comics!



## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #33**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #6**
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #1**—Direct from hit Saturday morning TV show, "Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends," and into her own comic! Guest starring the New Mutants and the X-Men!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #4**—History was made in issues #46–65! Read all about it!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Gee!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #317**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #265**—Don't you know we're on the "Eve of Destruction" in this *Secret Wars* cross-over?
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #180**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #185**
- ☐ **X-MEN #203**—It's a battle to the death with the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #122**
- ☐ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #45**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #6**—Betrayal!
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **BALDER THE BRAVE (Limited Series) #3**—Special tie-in with the *Mighty Thor*!
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #4**—Uncanny mutant issue!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #1**—That popular West Coast Avenger finally stars in his own *double-sized* adventure!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #204**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #288**—It's real! Doctor Doom appears in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #112**—The Black Cat is back!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #365**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #2**—The Beast is kidnapped!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #14**
- ☐ **SECTAURS #5**
- ☐ **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #9**—Cataclysmic double-sized final issue, featuring virtually everyone in the Marvel Universe in the wildest battle you'll ever see!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #18**

### MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #36**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #25**—Featuring "Weirdworld" and a Dave Sim Portfolio!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #121**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #3**

### EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #5**—Welcome aboard new regular penciler GEOF ISHERWOOD!
- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping artwork supplied this issue by *Epic* illustrator KENT WILLIAMS!
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #13**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #2**—Found: a gateway to another dimension!
- ☐ **COYOTE #16**—The Djinn and Scorpio Rose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #8**—Could this be . . . the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARCHIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PLUNKETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

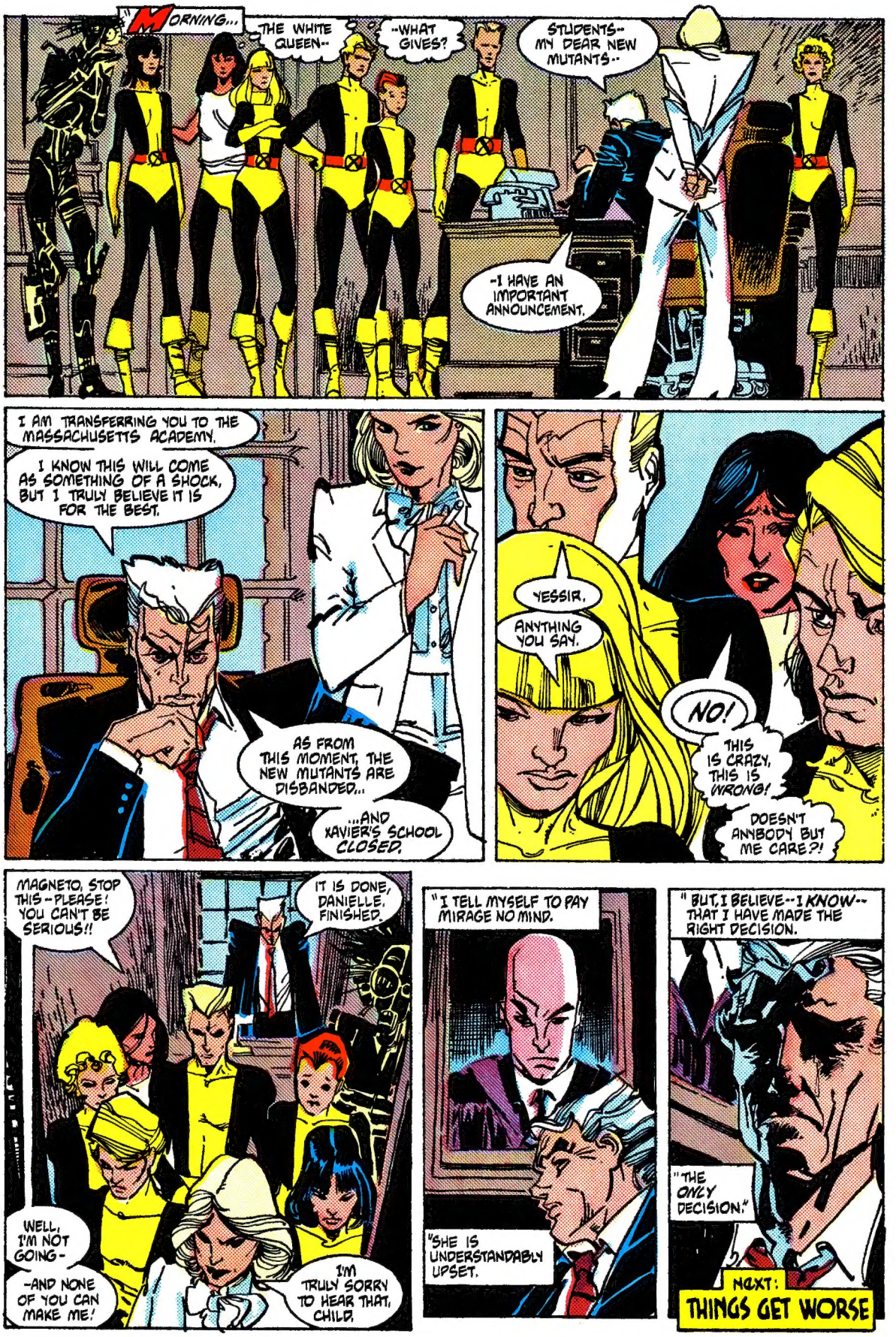
### STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #12**—A happy surprise for Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #6**
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #12**
- ☐ **EWOKS #6**—Wicket finds himself in a cosmic battle against the Ice Demon!
- ☐ **ROYAL ROY #6**—What is the secret power of Casheiot?
- ☐ **MUPPET BABIES #6**—Scooter rules the world!
- ☐ **GETALONG GANG #6**—Watch out! There's a stranger in Green Meadow!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #3**—Featuring "Blue Who!"

### GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE**—Why is New York called "Fun City?" Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)!

YOU ARE QUITE...CORRECT, SEÑOR.
I AM ONE OF EMMA FROST'S "SPECIAL" STUDENTS.
I CONTROL EMOTIONS.
YOU HAVE NO MORE INTEREST IN ME.
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME.
YOU HAVE EYES-- AND THOUGHTS-- ONLY FOR YOURSELVES.
SEE? HOW EASILY YOU ARE CONSUMED BY A LOVE THAT DEFIES DESCRIPTION...
...A BESTIAL PASSION THAT WILL NOT DIE...
...UNTIL IT HAS DRAINED YOU UTTERLY.
PATHETIC ANIMALS.
SOMEDAY SOON-- I HOPE- I PRAY-
-I SHALL DO FAR WORSE TO HER EXALTED HIGHNESS, THE WHITE QUEEN.
BUT, UNTIL THEN, I SHALL BIDE MY TIME;-
-PLAY THE GOOD STUDENT AND DO HER BIDDING TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.
YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT, PHILIP. I HAVE BEEN TOO PROUD, TOO STUBBORN--TOO SURE OF MYSELF-- AND MY STUDENTS HAVE PAID THE PRICE.
HOWEVER, I KNOW NOW WHAT MUST BE DONE. LET US PRAY IT IS NOT TOO LATE.


MORNING...
-THE WHITE QUEEN--
--WHAT GIVES?
STUDENTS--MY DEAR NEW MUTANTS--
-I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.
I AM TRANSFERRING YOU TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY.
I KNOW THIS WILL COME AS SOMETHING OF A SHOCK, BUT I TRULY BELIEVE IT IS FOR THE BEST.
AS FROM THIS MOMENT, THE NEW MUTANTS ARE DISBANDED...
...AND XAVIER'S SCHOOL CLOSED.
YESSIR.
ANYTHING YOU SAY.
NO!
THIS IS CRAZY, THIS IS WRONG!
DOESN'T ANYBODY BUT ME CARE?!
MAGNETO, STOP THIS--PLEASE! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!
IT IS DONE, DANIELLE. FINISHED.
WELL, I'M NOT GOING-
-AND NONE OF YOU CAN MAKE ME!
I'M TRULY SORRY TO HEAR THAT, CHILD.
"I TELL MYSELF TO PAY MIRAGE NO MIND.
"SHE IS UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET.
"BUT, I BELIEVE--I KNOW--THAT I HAVE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.
"THE ONLY DECISION."
NEXT:
THINGS GET WORSE

# REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Friends,

NEW MUTANTS #25. Beautiful.

It's all very nice to write about super-people racing all over the world, bashing heads and saving zillions of people from disasters of Biblical proportions.

What is infinitely more difficult, however (especially in comic book land, where bigger and louder and more earth-shattering is usually considered better), is to walk into someone's mind and tell of a personal struggle taking place in there. It takes a much finer, more sensitive touch, and also a more liberal dose of reality. Few of us will ever have a face-off with a super-baddie out to chop the Earth into little bitty pieces. But everyone, whether they like to admit it or not, has problems.

So this is what separates the adequate from the beautiful in the realm of comics. Anyone can bellow; what takes real skill is the ability to sing softly with equal intensity, taking note of the crescendos and diminuendos, and filling the song with the emotion and sensitivity that are its due.

That's how "The Only Thing to Fear . . ." was sung.

Beautiful.

Alison Humphrey
287 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2M6

Marvel—

I'm a Christian and a comic book lover. I have seen the supernatural in comics over the years and after NEW MUTANTS #25, I have to bring the following to your attention. You show Illyana Rasputin "uncomfortable" in a "house of God." Being a demon sorceress, Illyana could not even get close to the church, let alone in it. Demons are totally evil and can do nothing good or associate with that which is good—like the house of God or, for that matter, the New Mutants.

Illyana controls demons. That is wrong. Man cannot control them, *demons can control man*. Just like they control Illyana, they can control you when you write stories on exorcism and demons. I am *not* in anyway saying you are possessed but I am saying that when you write about it and I buy it, we give them, in a way, our support. That is wrong.

Lennie Markwik
96, Highland
Beamsville, Ontario, Canada L0R 1B0

**With all due respect, Lennie, it may be that you miss the point with Illyana. True, her magickal power derives from a source that is the most foul evil—but what, we sincerely hope, makes her noble and truly heroic is that she fights that negative influence. She is a creature of the Shadow trying with all her strength to climb into the Light. To become, if you will, good. In part, she represents a belief that there is always hope, that—no matter how "evil" a person or creature or whatever may be—there is always a possibility of redemption. That, in the end, good will triumph. It's the same struggle everyone goes through, every day of their lives, only in Illyana's case, it's infinitely harder, the deck stacked far more heavily against her. She may fail—she may be condemned and consumed—but it won't be because she didn't try. Is that wrong? Should she be condemned outright, and abandoned, simply because of what she is, ignoring what she's trying so hard to be? Is the label the only thing that matters, not the person inside? The answers to those questions, friend, might give you a clue as to what the NEW MUTANTS and X-MEN series are really about.**

Dear—EVERYONE:

Congratulations!!! As a creative team, you guys have made the NEW MUTANTS an entirely cohesive whole, and a *fantastic* book.

I knew it would be great when the one-and-only Bill Sienkiewicz decided to start doing the *insides* of a comic again (bless the day!). But there seemed to be a problem with meshing styles. I said to myself: "give them time, and they'll get better." To which I answered: "but it *can't* get any better!"

So, I was wrong.

Styles have been changing, adapting and melding. I, of course, blame Bill. Everyone seems more willing to experiment, to be a little more off-the-wall. Chris's scripting has gotten more spontaneous and direct-stream (e.g. Warlock). And while it was *fantastic* before (*all* the writing that is) there's an additional depth to his work that pervades the whole magazine. I *love* it!

I've noticed Tom's (and Lois's) use of rougher, free-handed-looking titles to match Bill's style—no grid paper, here! (I especially liked "Seige"—*primo!*) And the Warlock passages! Yowza! It's really blending in with everything. Like the Tandy/Mike Bowen balloon on NEW MUTANTS #25 (page 2). It's just *all clicking!*

Glynis has a job I would hate. Sienkiewicz's black and white work looks so finished, I wouldn't know how to even start—and those heavy shadowed pages! There's nothing *to* color in! Yet somehow she works a miracle, and *colors* it, without making its impact any the less. All the backgrounds are perfect in establishing mood, from the harsh, bright reds (which she *never* overuses) to the subdued pale blues. Glynis follows all the cues right on time and in perfect unison. Bless you, lady!

I wish I knew enough about comics to praise Ann's work in equally high terms, but my ignorance has to stop me. I don't want to throw out some cheap phrase of approval; the quality of your work's too good for that. So, what can I say? I just want you to know. I *love* this magazine, I care about it.

That doesn't mean that in my eyes you guys can do no wrong—but you people have my respect, my admiration and my devoted readership every month. Keep it up! Please!!

The creativity, innovation and *work* that goes into the NEW MUTANTS shows, and I'm really grateful for it.

I wish I had the words.

Kathy Li
(no address)

Dear Ann:

I wanted to take some time to thank you for bringing to life two of my favorite characters, Cannonball and Wolfsbane. I suppose they are so close to me because of my background. I was born and raised in a small town in western North Carolina. Before I was eight years old, we lived in a two-room shack with no indoor plumbing. I grew up in a very conservative Baptist church. As I grew older, I began to question many of those teachings. When I received a scholarship to Wake Forest University, I remember my first semester; I had Intro to Philosophy and Intro to New Testament. It took me two years to put my value system back together with any coherency.

What your readers should understand about Sam is that when you carry a man's weight as he has at his young age, you feel like an adult and are accorded the same respect. For Sam to adjust to being a child at Xavier's School is difficult. In his other role, he was competent at what was required of him to do. Now, he is placed in a leadership role more for his age than his ability. Perhaps for a time, Dani and Illyana should be the leaders. Sam must first learn to master his own feelings before he can lead others.

As for Rahne, I would tell the child about how hard it is when those truths you have anchored your life in become as ethereal as a morning mist; how difficult even the small decisions become when basic right and wrong becomes debatable. Perhaps what would be helpful for her to realize about herself is contained in a quote from C.S. Lewis: "the Image of God was not seated in the features of your race, but in the Lineaments of your Soul."

Thank you for all your work and all the best for the future.

James Golds
(no address)

**As you see this issue, James, the kids are going through some serious—and fundamental—changes, in both their lives and themselves. The idea behind making Sam co-leader was that he's the one everybody instinctively goes to when they're troubled: the ultimate big brother, John-Boy Walton personified. Unfortunately, the same caring, deliberative instincts which serve him so well in that capacity inhibit his leadership ability in a fight. That's where Dani comes in. She's lousy in the sympathy department, but an Ace on wheels when the chips are down. As for Rahne, she's really just started growing up. She's at the time in her life where *everything* changes—faster and more dramatically than she could ever have dreamed. We hope she'll turn out all right, but you never know . . .**

**In two months, we welcome Jackson Guice aboard as the NEW MUTANTS' newest penciler—for a climactic confrontation between Magneto and the Avengers.**

**But, in the meantime, NEXT ISSUE reveals what happens to the New Mutants during their first weeks as students at the White Queen's Massachusetts Academy, and members of her *Hellions*. Repercussions galore—as things rapidly proceed from bad to worse, courtesy of guest penciler Keith Pollard and inker Del Barras—in *PAWNS TO THE WHITE QUEEN*.**

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST